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Senate sends McManus' prescribed burning and baiting bills to the governor

LANSING – Two bills aimed at helping to preserve Michigan's natural resources were sent to the governor Thursday, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau

Senate Bill 925 would create a Michigan "Right to Burn Act" and establish criteria for prescribed burning. It also would afford liability to landowners who are certified, or who employ a certified burn operator, in the event that a prescribed burn gets out of hand.

"Native species are adapted to fire and burning can be a tool in controlling the invasion of undesirable plants," said McManus, sponsor of the bill. "This bill provides important safeguards and protections so property owners can use this important tool to improve their land."

Senate Bill 926 would extend the current restrictions on feeding deer and elk through Jan. 1, 2010. The restrictions prohibit a person from feeding deer or elk except for recreational viewing purposes and require that the feed be deposited or distributed on the property of the person doing the feeding not more than 100 yards from their home.

"This bill is necessary to continue the Natural Resource Commission's work on stopping the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis and other diseases," McManus said. "I urge the governor's quick action to support this important legislation."

Both bills now go to the governor for consideration.

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